

13 February 1967

BACKSTOPPER FOR BRIEFINGS

SOVIET RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

R+D

- I. The Soviets have given maximum support to military research and development since World War II, and it seems clear that they intend to maintain a vigorous program to update their military potential.
 - A. There have been some shortcomings--rigid planning procedures, overly centralized program direction, compartmentation of research, and--by our standards, poor quality control and poor industrial craftsmanship.
 1. The pressure on weapons designers to deliver the goods has encouraged improvement of established technology in preference to new concepts in some fields.
 - B. At the same time the Soviets have repeatedly shown their willingness--with systems of the highest priority such as the SS-7 and SS-11 missiles--to go ahead with production and even deployment even before testing and evaluation is completed.

R&D-1

II. Soviet spending for military and space R&D and the procurement of advanced weapons is growing much faster than total defense expenditures. The outlay for the so-called "exotics" has more than doubled since 1958.

A. Most of this increase has gone to R & D, rather than procurement. The Soviets obviously have accorded a high priority to advances in both strategic offense and strategic defense.

B. Estimated expenditures for military and space research, development, testing and evaluation amounted to roughly 4.2 billion rubles in 1965, and are expected to increase to about 6.2 billion rubles by 1970.

C. This represents about 70 percent of the total expenditure for all research and development in the Soviet Union.

III. There is a broad R & D program in strategic offensive missiles. Over the next five to ten years, we expect to see solid-fueled and mobile systems enter the ICBM and MRBM/IRBM forces.

A. There has been no evidence so far of Soviet testing of advanced re-entry concepts, but we would expect to see investigation of penetration aids, maneuverable RV's, and

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independently-targeted RV's over the next
10 years.

- B. Research and development also continues on
all the components of ABM and other defensive
missile systems from early-warning and tracking
radars to new missiles and probably new
warheads.

R&D-3

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